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ABSTRACT

The sixth annual survey conducted by the Rural Services Institute examined the opinions of Pennsylvania residents on crime control, welfare reform, smoking, and education reform proposals. Sixty percent of respondents believed that the most urgent issue facing Pennsylvania was violent crime and strongly supported measures to reduce the irresponsible use of guns, especially by minors. The majority of respondents supported welfare reform, but lacked a clear consensus about what actions would improve the welfare system. The majority of respondents believed that doctors should help terminally ill patients to commit suicide, were willing to pay higher taxes or higher insurance premiums to provide health care for uninsured residents, and favored a law that would require employers to provide health insurance for their employees. Additionally, the majority of respondents favored measures to reduce youth access to cigarettes. Respondents had mixed views on educational change issues, including providing condoms for high school students, allowing public school choice outside of resident district, and increasing the number of school days. Residents also responded to questions concerning property taxes, tax amnesty, and state income tax deductions for child care expenses. Responses to survey questions are broken down by rural/urban and regional residence, age, sex, marital status, parenthood status, educational level, political affiliation, and religious preference. Appendices include a map of rural and urban counties in Pennsylvania and a description of the survey sample. Contains maps and figures. (LP)

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ED 372 889

Views of Pennsylvania Citizens

THE PUBLIC MIND

SMOKING
EDUCATION
TAX REFORM
CRIME CONTROL
WELFARE REFORM
HEALTH CARE REFORM

MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY RURAL SERVICES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Report No. 6
May 1994

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The Rural Services Institute

Background

The Rural Services Institute (RSI) was established in 1984 as the applied research and community service arm of Mansfield University within the Division of Community Services and Continuing Education.

Purpose

Our purpose is to share the resources of the university with the regional rural community. We encourage and assist students, faculty, and staff to meet the identified needs of business and industry, area students, local governments, and social service agencies.

Mission

Our mission is to engage in community service on behalf of the university and to be the applied research arm of Mansfield University.

How We will Accomplish Our Mission
In carrying out our mission we will:

- strive for excellence in all our efforts;
- apply the resources of the university to help solve community problems;
- be committed to increasing the problem solving capacity of the region;
- work at raising people's expectation levels and their self esteem;
- assume the role of pointing out problems to the community;
- act as a facilitator in helping the community reach solutions to their identified problems;
- do applied research and pilot projects on potential solutions to these problems;
- strive to enhance the image of Mansfield University;
- seek to attain the goals set by the State System of Higher Education and Mansfield University.

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6TH ANNUAL RSI SURVEY

May 1994

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CRIME CONTROL

Pennsylvanians say "crime" is the most urgent issue to be resolved.

Despite a recent drop in the actual crime rate, 60% of Pennsylvanians perceive "violent crime" to be the most urgent issue facing the state. In fact, they view it as far more urgent by comparison to "welfare reform" (22%) and "health care reform" (18%). As one respondent put it: "I'll worry about health care and welfare when I'm safe."

On specifically proposed legislation, Pennsylvanians support measures to reduce the irresponsible use of guns, especially by minors.

Crime, Handguns and Minors. By a strong majority, 90%, Pennsylvanians support a proposal to prohibit minors from possessing handguns except for lawful activities such as hunting and target shooting. Last year, such a law was passed in Colorado and in April, Gov. Casey proposed similar legislation.

Concerned about violence in schools, Pennsylvanians strongly (86%) support the expulsion of any student found carrying a weapon in school; and, a strong majority (75%) also support fining parents of children who bring weapons to school. In this regard, Gov. Casey has proposed to make it a felony for a parent to knowingly permit a minor to possess a firearm in violation of the law, and to make a parent fully liable for any willful act of violence committed by a minor with a gun if they had not taken reasonable precautions to prevent the act.

Gun Control. Overall, 77% support a ban on the sale of guns that are classified as semiautomatic assault weapons. Yet, in this regard should be noted that most respondents were not clear in their understanding of what constitutes such a weapon. As one person put it: "I'm not sure what guns you're talking about, but I think they should ban guns that are just for killing people as fast as you can."

In addition to a statewide ban on semiautomatic weapons, 66% of Pennsylvanians – 74% in southeastern region of the state – also support legislation that would allow Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other local communities to enact gun control laws that are stricter than state laws.

Punishment for Crime/Death Penalty/ Innocence. Obviously frustrated by crime, 80% of Pennsylvanians support life imprisonment for anyone convicted of three violent crimes. And, indicative of their concern, 63% said that they are "willing to pay higher taxes to guarantee that violent criminals will not be released from prison until they have served their full sentences."

For serious violent crimes, Pennsylvanians strongly (71%) support use of the death penalty; but it should also be noted that 60% feel that instead of putting non-violent criminals in prison it may be better to put them under house arrest and monitor them through electronic surveillance. Interestingly, when asked "Out of every 100 people in prison, how many do you think are actually innocent?" 54% gave a figure of 5 or more. One person who felt that at least 10% are innocent expressed concern that fear of crime was leading to the imprisonment of too many innocent persons – especially minorities.

Fig. 1:

Most Urgent Issue Facing Pennsylvania

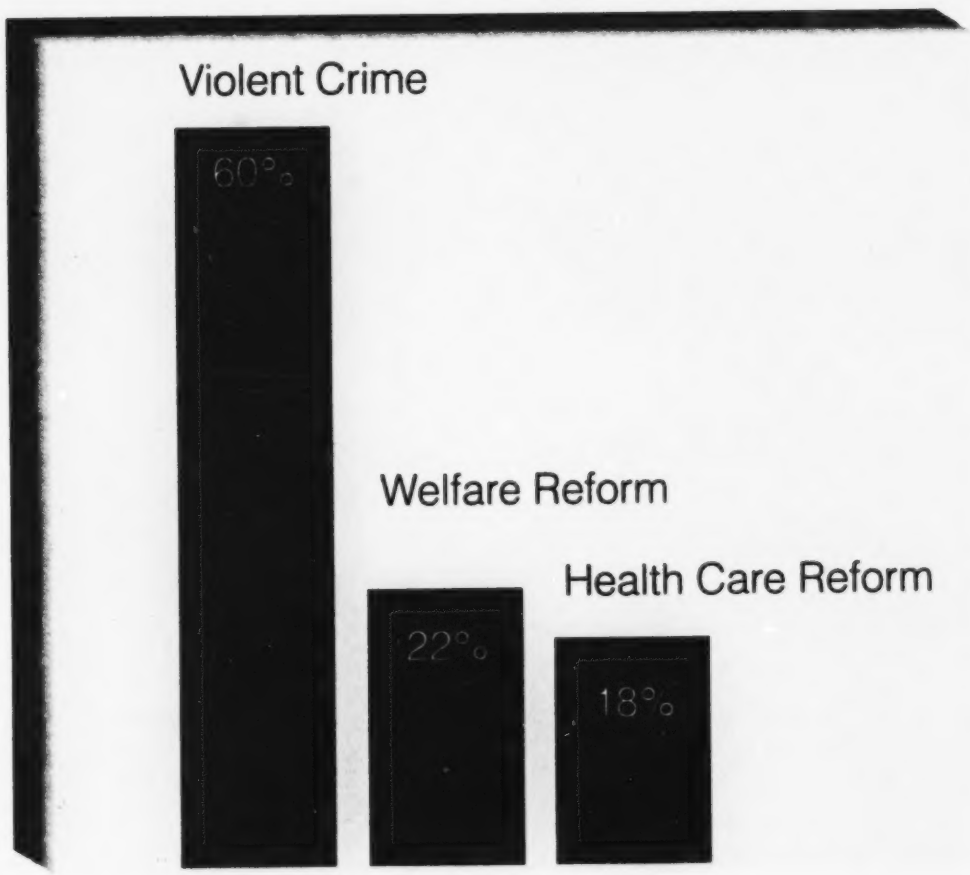
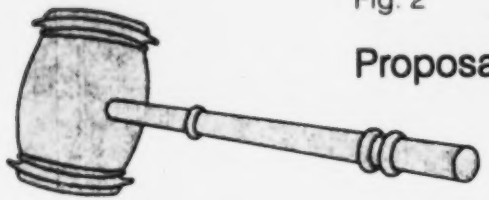
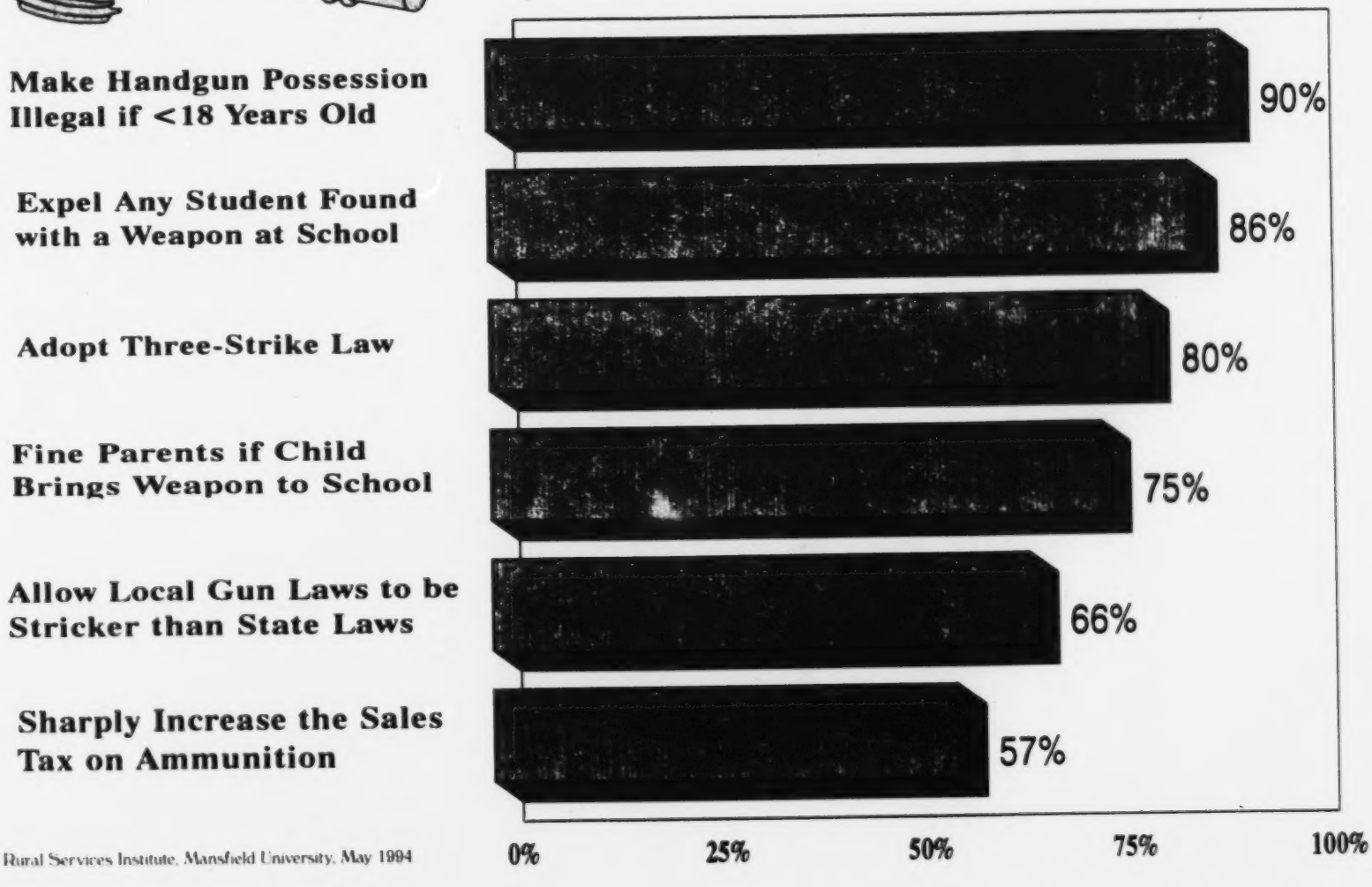


Fig. 2



Proposals to Reduce Crime and Violence

Percentage of Pennsylvanians who "favor" proposal to ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

CRIME CONTROL:

Prohibit Minors from Possessing Handguns, Except for Hunting and Target Use

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about making it illegal for anyone under 18 to possess a handgun except for hunting or target shooting?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	90%	8%	3%	1859
Rural/Urban				
Rural	90	8	2	404
Urban	90	8	3	1455
Region				
Northwest	88	9	3	182
Southwest	90	7	3	444
Central	90	7	3	405
Northeast	88	10	3	148
Southeast	90	8	2	680
Age				
18 - 34	89	8	3	499
35 - 49	90	8	2	608
50 - 64	91	8	2	347
65 or older	90	7	4	363
Sex				
Male	86	11	3	792
Female	93	5	2	994
Marital Status				
Married	90	8	2	1082
Divorced	93	5	2	170
Separated	87	8	4	47
Widowed	92	4	4	209
Never Married	86	10	3	324
Children				
Yes - Over	91	6	3	692
Yes - Under	90	8	2	665
None	88	9	3	463
Educational Level				
< High School	87	11	2	177
High School	91	7	3	975
College Graduate	89	8	3	682
Political Affiliation				
Republican	90	7	3	608
Democrat	92	6	2	679
Independent/Other	83	12	5	134
None	87	9	3	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	89	8	2	823
Catholic	92	6	3	650
Other/None	88	9	2	340

CRIME CONTROL:
Expulsion of Students Who Bring Weapons to School

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about requiring schools to expel any student who carries a weapon on school property?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	86%	9%	5%	1858
Rural/Urban				
Rural	88	8	4	404
Urban	86	10	5	1454
Region				
Northwest	85	9	6	182
Southwest	87	9	4	444
Central	89	6	4	405
Northeast	84	12	4	148
Southeast	84	11	5	679
Age				
18 - 34	83	11	6	498
35 - 49	87	7	6	608
50 - 64	90	7	4	347
65 or older	85	13	2	363
Sex				
Male	83	12	5	791
Female	88	8	4	994
Marital Status				
Married	89	7	4	1081
Divorced	88	8	4	170
Separated	89	11	0	47
Widowed	83	13	3	209
Never Married	78	15	7	324
Children				
Yes - Over	88	9	4	692
Yes - Under	88	8	4	664
None	81	12	6	463
Educational Level				
< High School	81	16	3	177
High School	89	7	4	974
College Graduate	83	11	6	682
Political Affiliation				
Republican	88	7	5	608
Democrat	87	8	5	679
Independent/Other	77	18	5	134
None	83	12	5	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	88	7	5	822
Catholic	88	8	4	650
Other/None	78	16	6	340

CRIME CONTROL:
Adoption of the Three-Strike Law

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about requiring life imprisonment for anyone convicted of three violent crimes?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	80%	12%	8%	1854
Rural/Urban				
Rural	85	8	6	402
Urban	78	13	9	1452
Region				
Northwest	86	7	7	182
Southwest	80	12	8	443
Central	81	11	8	403
Northeast	74	16	10	148
Southeast	78	13	9	678
Age				
18 - 34	81	11	8	499
35 - 49	80	12	7	606
50 - 64	79	13	8	345
65 or older	78	12	10	362
Sex				
Male	77	16	8	790
Female	81	10	9	991
Marital Status				
Married	80	12	8	1078
Divorced	82	9	9	170
Separated	72	15	13	47
Widowed	78	11	11	208
Never Married	78	15	7	324
Children				
Yes - Over 18	80	12	9	688
Yes - Under 18	79	12	9	665
None	81	12	6	462
Educational Level				
< High School	79	11	10	175
High School Graduate	83	9	8	974
College Graduate	74	17	8	680
Political Affiliation				
Republican	81	10	9	606
Democrat	79	14	8	677
Independent/Other	80	12	8	134
None	82	11	7	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	81	10	9	820
Catholic	84	9	7	648
Other/None	70	21	9	340

CRIME CONTROL:
Ban Sale of Semiautomatic Weapons

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about prohibiting the sale of guns that are classified as semiautomatic assault weapons?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	77%	18%	5%	1858
Rural/Urban				
Rural	72	21	7	404
Urban	79	17	4	1454
Region				
Northwest	71	22	6	182
Southwest	77	18	5	444
Central	73	21	6	404
Northeast	74	20	6	148
Southeast	82	15	3	680
Age				
18 - 34	73	20	7	499
35 - 49	78	19	3	608
50 - 64	78	18	4	346
65 or older	82	14	4	363
Sex				
Male	70	26	4	791
Female	84	11	5	994
Marital Status				
Married	78	18	4	1082
Divorced	79	18	3	170
Separated	79	13	8	47
Widowed	83	12	5	209
Never Married	72	20	8	323
Children				
Yes - Over	80	15	4	692
Yes - Under	77	19	4	665
None	73	20	7	462
Educational Level				
< High School	72	22	6	177
High School	75	19	6	975
College Graduate	82	15	3	681
Political Affiliation				
Republican	76	18	5	607
Democrat	82	15	3	679
Independent/Other	80	17	3	134
None	70	24	7	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	76	18	6	823
Catholic	81	16	4	650
Other/None	75	21	4	339

CRIME CONTROL:
Fine Parents if Child Brings Weapon to School

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about the proposal to make parents pay a fine if their child is found carrying a weapon in school?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	75%	15%	10%	1858
Rural/Urban				
Rural	74	17	9	404
Urban	75	15	10	1454
Region				
Northwest	72	20	8	182
Southwest	79	13	8	444
Central	71	18	11	405
Northeast	77	16	7	148
Southeast	75	14	10	679
Age				
18 - 34	68	21	11	498
35 - 49	74	16	9	608
50 - 64	79	11	10	347
65 or older	80	12	8	363
Sex				
Male	74	18	8	791
Female	76	13	11	994
Marital Status				
Married	76	15	9	1081
Divorced	69	16	14	170
Separated	85	11	4	47
Widowed	83	8	9	209
Never Married	68	20	11	324
Children				
Yes - Over	78	12	9	692
Yes - Under	74	16	10	664
None	72	19	10	463
Educational Level				
< High School	77	16	7	177
High School	76	15	9	974
College Graduate	73	16	11	682
Political Affiliation				
Republican	75	15	10	608
Democrat	77	14	9	679
Independent/Other	70	16	13	134
None	68	21	11	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	78	13	9	822
Catholic	74	16	10	650
Other/None	68	20	11	340

CRIME CONTROL:
Use of Death Penalty

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about the use of the death penalty?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	71%	16%	13%	1851
Rural/Urban				
Rural	74	13	12	403
Urban	71	16	13	1448
Region				
Northwest	70	14	16	181
Southwest	74	15	11	443
Central	72	16	13	404
Northeast	70	15	15	147
Southeast	70	16	14	676
Age				
18 - 34	75	15	10	496
35 - 49	72	16	12	605
50 - 64	67	17	16	347
65 or older	70	14	16	362
Sex				
Male	76	16	8	788
Female	67	16	17	991
Marital Status				
Married	73	14	12	1079
Divorced	71	15	14	170
Separated	79	15	6	47
Widowed	66	17	16	209
Never Married	69	18	13	321
Children				
Yes - Over	71	14	15	692
Yes - Under	73	16	11	662
None	70	17	13	460
Educational Level				
< High School	67	14	20	177
High School	75	13	13	970
College Graduate	69	20	12	681
Political Affiliation				
Republican	76	13	11	608
Democrat	67	19	14	678
Independent/Other	75	12	13	134
None	71	17	13	259
Religious Preference				
Protestant	75	12	13	820
Catholic	70	16	15	650
Other/None	67	22	11	337

CRIME CONTROL:

Allow Local Gun Control Laws to be Stricter than State Laws

Question: Do favor, oppose, or are you unsure about allowing Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and other local communities to pass gun control laws that are stricter than the state or federal gun control laws?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	66%	24%	10%	1857
Rural/Urban				
Rural	59	28	13	403
Urban	68	23	10	1454
Region				
Northwest	58	29	13	182
Southwest	61	26	13	444
Central	61	27	12	404
Northeast	65	23	12	148
Southeast	74	20	6	679
Age				
18 - 34	69	21	11	498
35 - 49	64	27	9	608
50 - 64	63	27	11	346
65 or older	66	23	11	363
Sex				
Male	60	32	8	790
Female	70	18	12	994
Marital Status				
Married	62	27	11	1080
Divorced	67	25	8	170
Separated	72	19	8	47
Widowed	72	15	12	209
Never Married	69	21	10	324
Children				
Yes - Over	65	23	12	691
Yes - Under	64	26	10	664
None	67	24	9	463
Educational Level				
< High School	65	22	13	176
High School	65	24	11	974
College Graduate	65	25	10	682
Political Affiliation				
Republican	61	28	11	608
Democrat	70	20	9	678
Independent/Other	62	25	13	134
None	66	25	9	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	62	28	11	821
Catholic	69	20	11	650
Other/None	66	24	9	340

CRIME CONTROL:
Sharply Increase the Sales Tax on Ammunition

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about sharply increasing the sales tax on ammunition?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	57%	34%	9%	1859
Rural/Urban				
Rural	48	42	10	404
Urban	59	32	9	1455
Region				
Northwest	49	41	10	182
Southwest	55	35	10	444
Central	50	40	10	405
Northeast	53	36	10	148
Southeast	65	27	8	680
Age				
18 - 34	54	36	9	499
35 - 49	54	37	9	608
50 - 64	58	34	8	347
65 or older	63	26	11	363
Sex				
Male	48	46	7	792
Female	64	24	11	994
Marital Status				
Married	55	37	8	1082
Divorced	58	32	9	170
Separated	60	30	11	47
Widowed	64	25	12	209
Never Married	58	32	10	324
Children				
Yes - Over	61	30	9	692
Yes - Under	53	39	8	665
None	57	32	11	463
Educational Level				
< High School	52	36	12	177
High School	55	36	9	975
College Graduate	61	31	8	682
Political Affiliation				
Republican	55	37	8	608
Democrat	61	29	10	679
Independent/Other	54	37	9	134
None	51	39	10	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	54	37	10	823
Catholic	61	29	10	650
Other/None	57	36	6	340

Fig. 3:

Public Willingness to Pay Higher Tax to Imprison Violent Criminals*

Question: "Are you willing to pay higher taxes to guarantee that violent criminals will not be released from prison until they have served their full sentences?"

Fig 4:

Alternatives to Imprisonment*

Question: "To reduce prison overcrowding and cost it has been proposed to place some non-violent criminals under house arrest and monitor them through electronic surveillance. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

* Denotes question was purchased by the Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus.

Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

WELFARE REFORM

President Clinton has pledged "to end welfare as we know it." Conservatives, such as Charles Murray, want to simply "end welfare" while liberals, such as Frances Fox Piven, say there is a desperate need to "expand welfare" to curb a growing poverty in America. Among Pennsylvanians, most agree that welfare reform is needed, but except for a few proposals there is a conspicuous lack of consensus about what to do.

Require Six-Month Residency for Eligibility. A strong majority (83%) of Pennsylvanians support the imposition of a six-month residency requirement for eligibility. As one respondent put it: "Why should Pennsylvania taxpayers support non-residents?" Still, others are concerned that such a rule would lead to a harsh denial of people in need. As one respondent noted: "What about the children?"

Fingerprinting to Reduce Fraud. Concern about welfare fraud has led California and New York to begin fingerprinting welfare recipients as a way to curtail individuals from drawing duplicate benefits under different names and/or from different states at the same time. Pennsylvanians strongly support (82%) the use of fingerprinting, although some point out that such a practice should include assurances that civil liberties are not violated.

Random Drug Testing of Welfare Recipients. A clear majority (73%) favor random drug testing of welfare recipients as a way to reduce misuse of public assistance. As one respondent noted : "I think they should test so I'm not paying for drugs." However, here again, some people raised the question of civil liberties, and others doubted that random drug testing programs could be effectively implemented. One person said: "It's easier to say you're going do these things than do them."

Require Unwed Teen Mothers to Live with Parents. Several 1994 gubernatorial candidates have suggested such a requirement, however general public support is relatively weak (54%). Support is highest among the elderly (66%), many of whom apparently believe that such a rule would encourage parents to be more active in helping to prevent teen pregnancies. In addition, some elderly feel that such a rule would provide greater assurance that the child would be properly cared for. Young adults apparently are less inclined to accept such arguments. Support for the proposal drops to 42% among young adults.

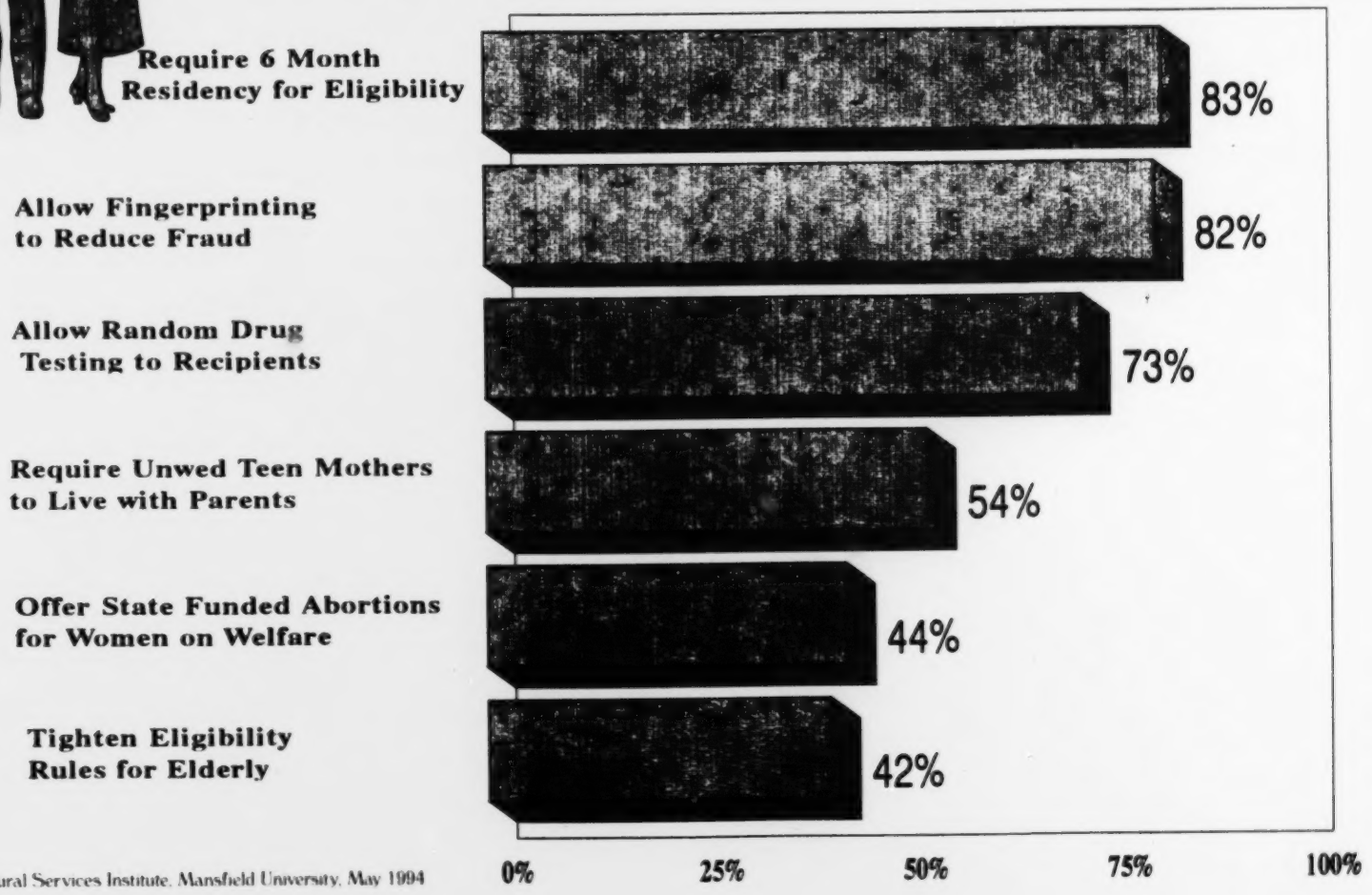
Offer State-Funded Abortions for Women on Welfare. Only 44% of Pennsylvanians support the idea of the state paying for abortions if a woman is on welfare. Nonetheless, there does appear to be an increase of support. **In the 1992 Public Mind Survey,** though using a slightly different wording, it was found that only 35% supported the proposal. As in 1992, again, support was regional: strongest in the Southeast (51%) and weakest in the Northeast (32%).

Tighten Medicaid Eligibility Requirements for the Elderly. In order to qualify for Medicaid, an increasing number of middle class elderly parents are transferring assets to their children – especially if it is expected that the parents will have to enter a nursing home. In fact, the growing number of such cases is cited as a major cause of the rising costs of welfare in Pennsylvania. Still, public opinion on the proposal remains split: 42% want tightening; 37% do not; 21% are unsure.

Fig. 5:

Welfare Reform Proposals

Percentage of Pennsylvanians who "favor" proposal to ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

WELFARE REFORM:
Residency Requirements

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about requiring a welfare recipient to have lived in the state at least six months before receiving benefits?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	83%	11%	6%	1840
Rural/Urban				
Rural	84	10	6	399
Urban	82	11	6	1441
Region				
Northwest	85	9	6	179
Southwest	82	11	7	443
Central	86	10	4	402
Northeast	84	10	7	147
Southeast	81	12	7	669
Age				
18 - 34	80	12	8	495
35 - 49	82	12	6	604
50 - 64	84	10	6	346
65 or older	88	8	4	358
Sex				
Male	82	12	6	783
Female	84	10	7	989
Marital Status				
Married	84	10	6	1073
Divorced	82	15	3	169
Separated	70	17	13	47
Widowed	86	9	5	208
Never Married	78	13	9	323
Children				
Yes - Over	86	10	4	688
Yes - Under	82	11	6	658
None	80	10	9	462
Educational Level				
< High School	83	13	4	178
High School	85	9	6	968
College Graduate	80	13	7	676
Political Affiliation				
Republican	89	8	3	606
Democrat	80	12	8	677
Independent/Other	77	16	8	134
None	78	13	10	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	86	10	5	818
Catholic	83	10	6	644
Other/None	77	14	9	339

WELFARE REFORM:
Fingerprinting to Reduce Fraud

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about allowing fingerprinting of welfare recipients as a way to reduce fraud?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	82%	13%	5%	1839
Rural/Urban				
Rural	82	14	4	398
Urban	81	13	5	1441
Region				
Northwest	82	14	3	179
Southwest	81	13	6	444
Central	84	11	5	399
Northeast	80	13	7	147
Southeast	81	14	5	670
Age				
18 - 34	83	12	5	497
35 - 49	80	15	5	603
50 - 64	79	16	5	345
65 or older	86	10	4	358
Sex				
Male	81	15	4	786
Female	82	12	6	984
Marital Status				
Married	81	14	5	1073
Divorced	83	12	5	170
Separated	87	13	0	47
Widowed	85	10	5	206
Never Married	80	15	6	324
Children				
Yes - Over	82	13	5	685
Yes - Under	80	15	6	660
None	84	12	4	463
Educational Level				
< High School	82	11	7	177
High School	86	10	4	966
College Graduate	76	18	6	678
Political Affiliation				
Republican	86	10	3	604
Democrat	79	15	6	676
Independent/Other	76	16	8	134
None	81	13	5	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	84	11	4	815
Catholic	82	13	6	647
Other/None	77	18	5	339

WELFARE REFORM:
Random Drug Testing

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about allowing the state to do random drug testing of welfare recipients?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	73%	21%	7%	1846
Rural/Urban				
Rural	74	18	7	401
Urban	72	21	6	1445
Region				
Northwest	77	18	5	181
Southwest	72	21	8	443
Central	75	19	6	403
Northeast	74	20	6	147
Southeast	70	22	7	672
Age				
18 - 34	74	21	5	497
35 - 49	68	25	7	607
50 - 64	73	20	7	347
65 or older	79	14	7	360
Sex				
Male	70	25	5	786
Female	74	18	8	992
Marital Status				
Married	74	19	6	1078
Divorced	66	22	12	169
Separated	74	21	4	47
Widowed	80	13	6	209
Never Married	66	28	6	324
Children				
Yes - Over	77	16	7	690
Yes - Under	71	23	6	662
None	69	25	6	463
Educational Level				
< High School	75	18	7	178
High School	79	14	7	970
College Graduate	63	30	6	681
Political Affiliation				
Republican	77	17	6	608
Democrat	71	22	7	680
Independent/Other	57	37	6	134
None	76	17	8	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	76	17	7	819
Catholic	75	18	7	649
Other/None	65	31	4	340

WELFARE REFORM:
Require Unwed Mothers to Live with Parents/Guardian

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about requiring an unwed teenage mother to live with her parents or guardians in order to receive welfare benefits?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	54%	31%	15%	1845
Rural/Urban				
Rural	52	33	16	401
Urban	54	30	15	1444
Region				
Northwest	60	26	14	181
Southwest	55	33	12	441
Central	49	35	16	403
Northeast	57	24	19	147
Southeast	53	30	17	673
Age				
18 - 34	42	39	18	497
35 - 49	54	32	13	607
50 - 64	56	28	17	346
65 or older	66	21	14	360
Sex				
Male	55	32	14	785
Female	53	31	16	992
Marital Status				
Married	54	30	16	1076
Divorced	51	32	17	170
Separated	47	38	15	47
Widowed	68	21	12	209
Never Married	45	40	15	324
Children				
Yes - Over	60	25	15	689
Yes - Under	51	33	16	662
None	49	36	15	463
Educational Level				
< High School	54	32	14	178
High School	57	28	15	971
College Graduate	48	35	16	679
Political Affiliation				
Republican	56	26	18	607
Democrat	52	33	15	679
Independent/Other	50	33	17	134
None	50	37	12	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	55	30	16	819
Catholic	58	28	14	648
Other/None	43	41	17	340

WELFARE REFORM:
Provide State-Funded Abortions in First Trimester of Pregnancy

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about offering a pregnant woman on welfare the chance to have a state-funded abortion during the first three months of pregnancy?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	44%	46%	10%	1846
Rural/Urban				
Rural	39	51	11	401
Urban	46	44	10	1445
Region				
Northwest	41	50	9	181
Southwest	43	45	12	443
Central	40	49	10	403
Northeast	32	58	10	147
Southeast	51	40	9	672
Age				
18 - 34	44	45	10	497
35 - 49	48	42	10	607
50 - 64	44	48	9	347
65 or older	37	52	11	360
Sex				
Male	47	43	10	786
Female	41	48	10	992
Marital Status				
Married	43	48	10	1078
Divorced	53	38	9	169
Separated	55	36	8	47
Widowed	39	48	13	209
Never Married	46	44	10	324
Children				
Yes - Over	43	47	10	690
Yes - Under	45	46	9	662
None	46	43	11	463
Educational Level				
< High School	42	48	11	178
High School	41	49	10	970
College Graduate	50	40	10	681
Political Affiliation				
Republican	42	49	9	608
Democrat	46	44	9	680
Independent/Other	52	37	11	134
None	44	41	14	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	46	43	10	819
Catholic	37	54	10	649
Other/None	52	37	10	340

WELFARE REFORM:
Tighten Regulations on Asset-Transfers

Question: Do you favor, oppose, or are you unsure about making it more difficult for elderly parents to transfer property and savings to their children in order to have welfare pay for nursing home expenses?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	42%	37%	21%	1843
Rural/Urban				
Rural	43	39	18	401
Urban	42	37	22	1442
Region				
Northwest	41	41	18	181
Southwest	41	37	22	442
Central	46	35	20	402
Northeast	37	43	20	147
Southeast	42	36	22	671
Age				
18 - 34	43	36	21	496
35 - 49	40	38	22	607
50 - 64	44	36	19	347
65 or older	41	39	20	358
Sex				
Male	46	36	19	785
Female	38	39	22	990
Marital Status				
Married	43	36	20	1076
Divorced	41	39	20	169
Separated	43	40	17	47
Widowed	35	42	24	208
Never Married	42	36	22	324
Children				
Yes - Over	43	38	20	688
Yes - Under	39	39	22	661
None	45	35	20	463
Educational Level				
< High School	39	40	21	178
High School	44	35	22	968
College Graduate	40	40	20	680
Political Affiliation				
Republican	43	36	21	608
Democrat	42	38	20	678
Independent/Other	41	40	19	134
None	39	37	24	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	42	37	20	819
Catholic	43	36	22	648
Other/None	39	40	21	338

Fig. 6:

Physician-Assisted Euthanasia

Question: "Do you think that Dr. Jack Kervorkian should be prosecuted?" (Based upon the 94% of respondents who said they had heard of him.)

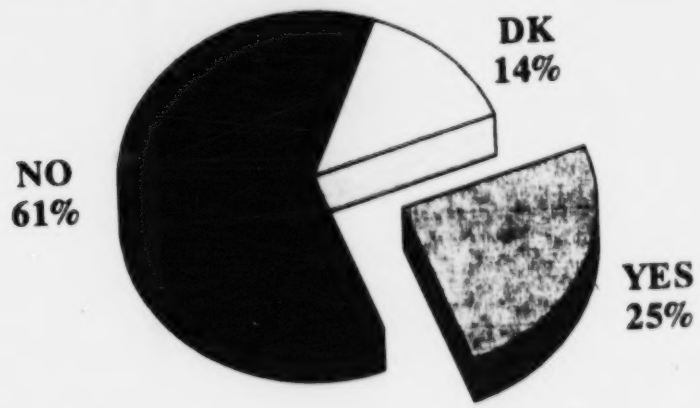
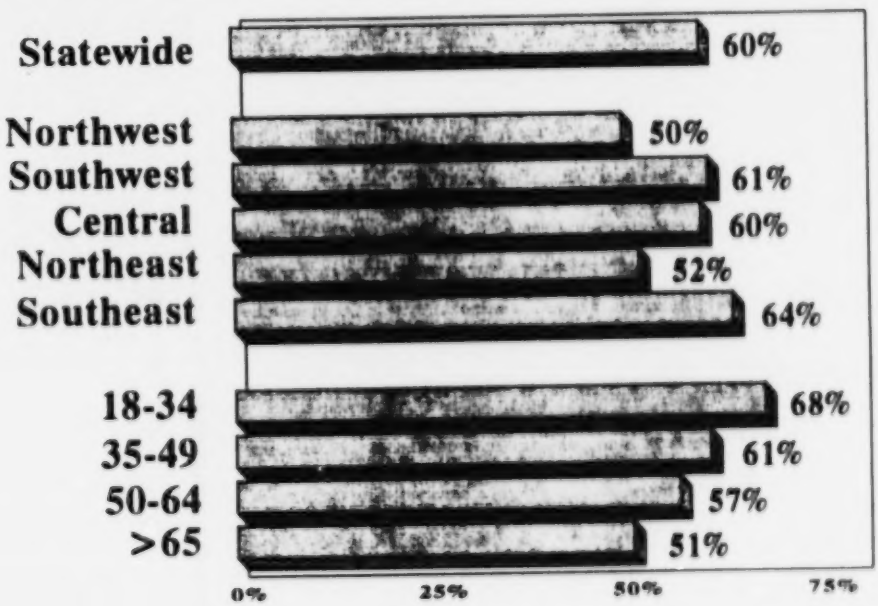


Fig. 7:

Physician-Assisted Euthanasia*

Question: "If a terminally ill patient requests help to end their life, do you feel a doctor should or should not be allowed to help the patient to die?" Percent who feel a doctor should help.



* Question was purchased by the Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus.

Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

Fig. 8:

Public Willingness to Subsidize Health Care

Question: "Are you willing to pay more, either in higher taxes or higher insurance premium to provide health care for Pennsylvanians who do not have health insurance?"

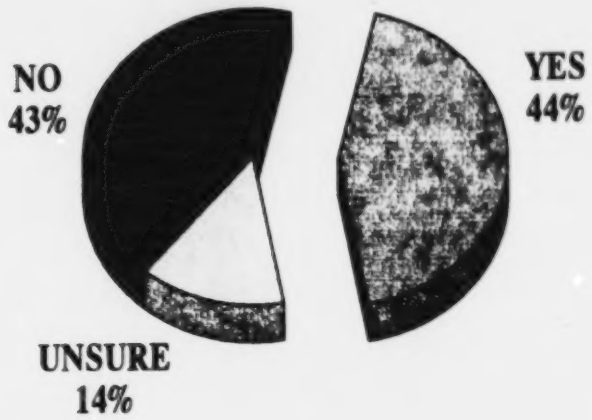
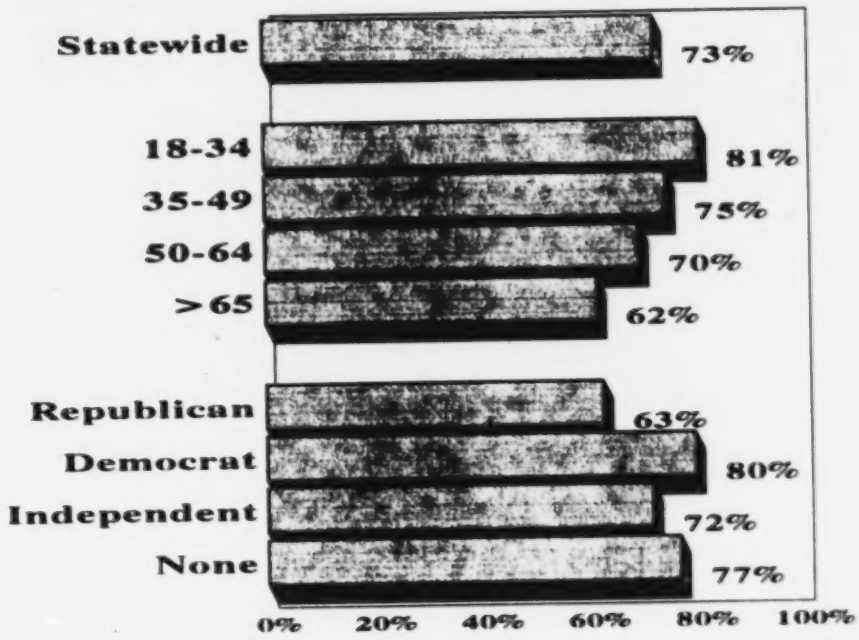


Fig. 9:

Mandated Employer Health Insurance

Question: "Would you favor or oppose a law that would require employers to provide health insurance for their employees?" Percent who favor the law.



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

REDUCING ACCESS OF YOUTH TO CIGARETTES

Among Pennsylvanians, there is continuing debate about the rights of adult smokers. However, there is an emerging consensus about the need to curtail smoking by minors. Both Democrats and Republicans generally agree with proposals to reduce access of youth to cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Place Tobacco Products Behind Store Counters. An overwhelming majority (87%) of Pennsylvanians support a proposal to require that tobacco products be placed behind store counters. Advocates of the proposal, including Stephen Gambescia of the American Heart Association and William Godshall, Executive Director of Smoke-Free Pennsylvania, contend that such a regulation would serve as an effective deterrent to underage smoking because it would facilitate enforcement of laws restricting the sale of cigarettes to minors. Buyers would have to request and clerks could more easily ask for age identification. Moreover, one respondent noted: "It makes sense not to make it easy for kids to steal cigarettes."

Ban Cigarette Vending Machines. A strong majority (69%) of Pennsylvanians support having a ban on cigarette vending machines. Proponents of a ban, such as State Sen. Allyson Schwartz, contend that it is necessary because vending machines provide minors with an easy access to cigarettes. Opponents of the ban contend that adults should not be inconvenienced simply because of machine misuse by minors.

Ban Billboard Advertising of Cigarettes. The effectiveness of Joe Camel and other advertisements to attract young smokers is not well-established. Anti-smoking advocates contend that such advertisements are very effective in luring young smokers, while tobacco companies claim their advertising is really not very effective and that it certainly is not intended to attract young people. Apparently, Pennsylvanians believe that advertising is effective: A clear majority (68%) feel that billboard advertising of cigarettes should be banned. As one person put it: "Getting young people hooked is the whole idea of that Joe Camel stuff."

Prosecute Adults Who Give Cigarettes to Minors. A strong majority (67%) of Pennsylvanians favor the general proposal to prosecute adults who give cigarettes to minors. Respondents were not asked about what the specific penalties should be, but one respondent stated: "Any adult who gives a kid cigarettes ought to be shot."

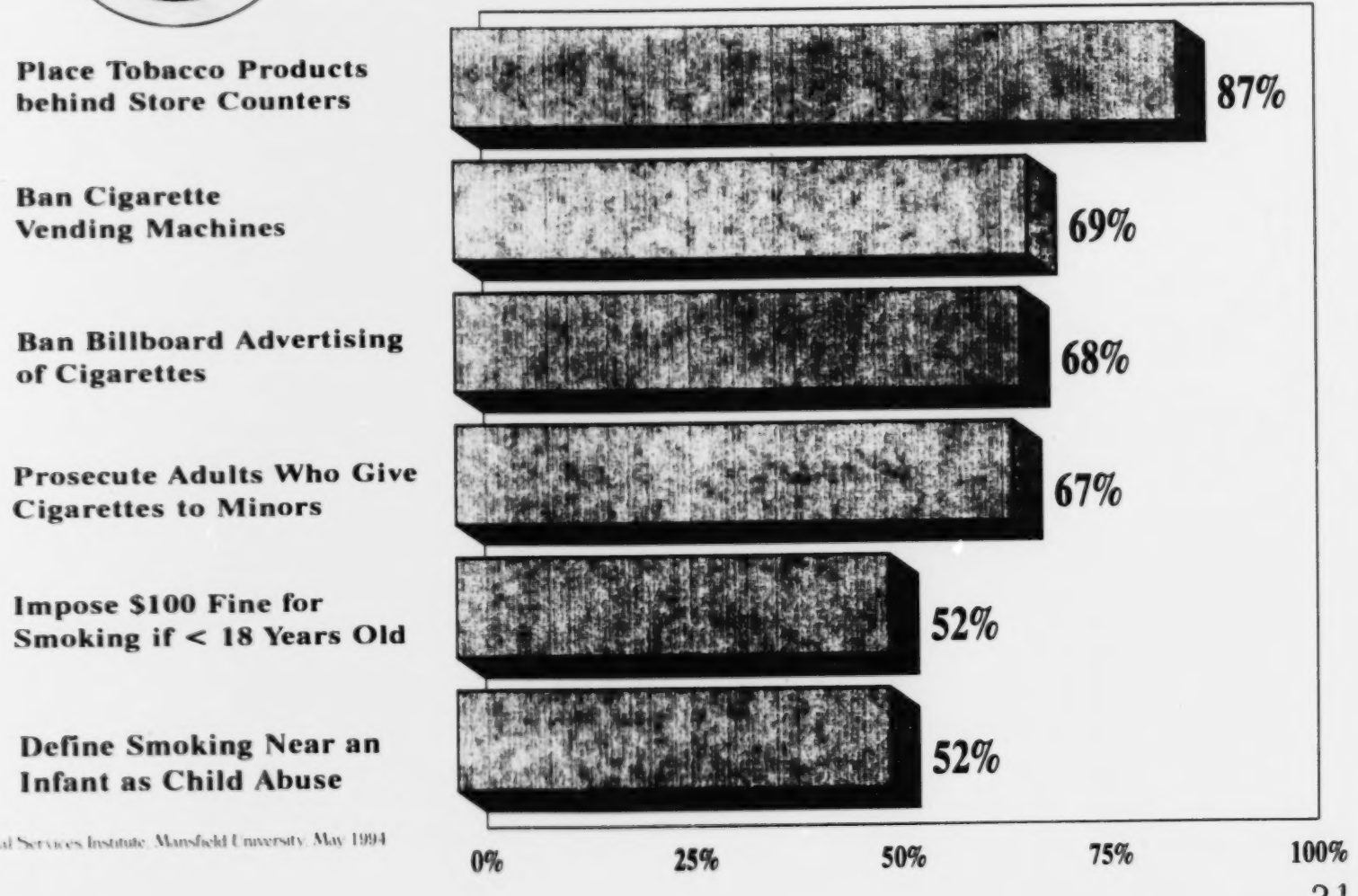
Impose $100 Fine for Underage Smoking. Opinion is split on the proposal to fine underage smokers. Proponents contend that a fine would help deter smoking just as fines for littering or failing to wear a seat belt are effective. Opponents contend that fining and criminalizing underage smokers will simply distract from the real "criminals" – tobacco companies that are selling an addictive drug.

Define Smoking in the Presence of an Infant to be Child Abuse. In the **1993 Public Mind Survey**, it was found that 45% of Pennsylvanians viewed smoking near an infant to be a form of child abuse. This year, asking the identical question, a slim majority, 52%, agreed. The seven percentage point increase is an indicator of increasing public concern about the adverse effects of passive smoking on children.

Fig. 10:

Reducing Youth Access to Cigarettes

Percentage of Pennsylvanians who "favor" proposal to ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

SMOKING:
Place Tobacco Products Behind Store Counters

Question: To reduce children's access to cigarettes do you favor or oppose requiring tobacco products be placed behind store counters?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	UNSURE	N
Statewide	87%	11%	2%	1817
Rural/Urban				
Rural	88	10	1	395
Urban	87	12	2	1422
Region				
Northwest	87	12	1	179
Southwest	88	10	2	436
Central	86	12	2	395
Northeast	88	11	1	147
Southeast	87	11	2	660
Age				
18 - 34	91	8	1	495
35 - 49	88	10	2	604
50 - 64	87	11	2	341
65 or older	81	16	3	351
Sex				
Male	85	14	2	773
Female	90	9	2	983
Marital Status				
Married	88	11	2	1071
Divorced	89	11	1	168
Separated	85	11	4	46
Widowed	81	15	4	203
Never Married	89	10	1	320
Children				
Yes - Over	84	14	2	681
Yes - Under	89	9	2	656
None	88	11	1	459
Educational Level				
< High School	84	14	2	175
High School	88	11	2	960
College Graduate	87	44	2	675
Political Affiliation				
Republican	87	11	2	608
Democrat	88	10	2	680
Independent/Other	86	13	2	133
None	87	12	2	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	87	12	2	809
Catholic	88	10	2	646
Other/None	86	12	2	334

SMOKING:
Ban Cigarette Vending Machines

Question: Do you favor or oppose the banning of cigarette vending machines?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	69%	29%	2%	1814
Rural/Urban				
Rural	70	27	3	396
Urban	69	29	2	1418
Region				
Northwest	66	32	2	179
Southwest	66	33	1	434
Central	70	24	5	395
Northeast	67	32	1	147
Southeast	71	27	2	659
Age				
18 - 34	65	33	2	494
35 - 49	72	26	2	602
50 - 64	71	26	3	341
65 or older	67	29	4	350
Sex				
Male	66	31	2	772
Female	71	26	3	981
Marital Status				
Married	70	27	2	1070
Divorced	69	28	3	167
Separated	76	22	2	45
Widowed	67	27	5	202
Never Married	63	35	1	320
Children				
Yes - Over	69	28	3	679
Yes - Under	72	26	3	655
None	65	33	2	458
Educational Level				
< High School	69	29	3	175
High School	69	28	3	958
College Graduate	68	30	2	673
Political Affiliation				
Republican	69	28	3	607
Democrat	70	27	3	678
Independent/Other	68	29	2	133
None	64	34	2	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	72	26	3	807
Catholic	68	30	3	644
Other/None	66	33	2	334

SMOKING:
Ban Billboard Advertising of Cigarettes

Question: Do you favor or oppose banning cigarette advertising on billboards?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	68%	29%	3%	1815
Rural/Urban				
Rural	70	27	3	395
Urban	67	30	3	1420
Region				
Northwest	68	29	3	179
Southwest	64	32	4	435
Central	64	33	3	395
Northeast	69	30	1	147
Southeast	72	25	3	659
Age				
18 - 34	59	37	4	495
35 - 49	68	29	2	604
50 - 64	75	24	2	340
65 or older	72	24	4	350
Sex				
Male	65	32	3	771
Female	70	27	3	983
Marital Status				
Married	69	28	3	1071
Divorced	70	29	2	167
Separated	67	26	6	46
Widowed	69	27	4	202
Never Married	61	35	4	320
Children				
Yes - Over	72	25	3	679
Yes - Under	66	31	3	656
None	64	33	4	459
Educational Level				
< High School	65	30	5	175
High School	67	30	3	960
College Graduate	68	29	3	673
Political Affiliation				
Republican	70	26	3	607
Democrat	70	27	3	679
Independent/Other	58	38	4	133
None	63	33	4	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	69	29	3	809
Catholic	68	28	4	645
Other/None	65	33	2	333

SMOKING:
Prosecute Adults Who Give Cigarettes to Minors

Question: Do you favor or oppose prosecuting adults who *give* cigarettes to minors?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	67%	30%	3%	1815
Rural/Urban				
Rural	69	27	4	394
Urban	66	31	3	1421
Region				
Northwest	66	28	5	179
Southwest	66	30	3	436
Central	68	29	3	394
Northeast	70	25	4	146
Southeast	65	32	3	660
Age				
18 - 34	67	30	3	495
35 - 49	67	30	3	604
50 - 64	65	32	3	339
65 or older	68	28	4	351
Sex				
Male	67	30	2	773
Female	66	30	4	981
Marital Status				
Married	67	30	3	1070
Divorced	67	30	3	168
Separated	78	17	4	46
Widowed	70	26	4	202
Never Married	61	35	4	320
Children				
Yes - Over	67	30	3	679
Yes - Under	69	27	4	656
None	62	34	4	459
Educational Level				
< High School	70	26	4	175
High School	67	29	4	958
College Graduate	65	32	2	675
Political Affiliation				
Republican	69	28	3	608
Democrat	66	30	4	679
Independent/Other	65	32	3	133
None	68	30	3	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	66	30	4	809
Catholic	67	30	3	644
Other/None	67	30	3	334

SMOKING:
Fine Anyone Under 18 Years Old for Smoking

Question: Do you favor or oppose imposing a $100 fine on anyone under 18 who is caught smoking?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	52%	44%	5%	1816
Rural/Urban				
Rural	55	40	5	395
Urban	51	44	5	1421
Region				
Northwest	53	43	4	179
Southwest	51	44	6	436
Central	54	39	7	395
Northeast	56	40	3	146
Southeast	49	47	4	660
Age				
18 - 34	60	37	3	495
35 - 49	48	48	4	604
50 - 64	49	45	6	340
65 or older	48	44	7	351
Sex				
Male	51	46	4	773
Female	53	42	6	982
Marital Status				
Married	51	43	5	1071
Divorced	53	45	2	168
Separated	61	33	6	46
Widowed	46	48	7	202
Never Married	54	43	3	320
Children				
Yes - Over	47	46	7	680
Yes - Under	53	43	4	656
None	56	41	4	459
Educational Level				
< High School	58	35	7	175
High School	52	44	4	959
College Graduate	50	45	5	675
Political Affiliation				
Republican	51	45	4	608
Democrat	52	42	6	680
Independent/Other	53	43	4	133
None	52	45	3	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	53	43	5	809
Catholic	50	45	5	645
Other/None	52	43	5	334

SMOKING:
Define Smoking Near an Infant as Child Abuse

Question: Some health authorities consider smoking in the presence of an infant to be a form of child abuse. Do you agree or disagree?

RESPONSES	AGREE	DISAGREE	DK	N
Statewide	52%	42%	5%	1814
Rural/Urban				
Rural	57	37	6	395
Urban	51	44	5	1419
Region				
Northwest	49	42	8	178
Southwest	53	42	5	435
Central	59	37	4	395
Northeast	58	35	6	147
Southeast	48	47	5	659
Age				
18 - 34	54	40	5	495
35 - 49	48	47	5	604
50 - 64	51	44	4	339
65 or older	59	35	6	350
Sex				
Male	53	43	4	771
Female	52	41	6	982
Marital Status				
Married	52	42	6	1070
Divorced	51	44	5	167
Separated	52	46	2	46
Widowed	57	37	6	202
Never Married	52	44	4	320
Children				
Yes - Over	55	40	6	678
Yes - Under	51	42	7	656
None	51	46	3	459
Educational Level				
< High School	55	39	6	175
High School	52	42	6	960
College Graduate	52	43	5	672
Political Affiliation				
Republican	52	42	6	606
Democrat	53	42	5	679
Independent/Other	53	41	6	133
None	50	45	4	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	53	41	6	808
Catholic	52	44	4	645
Other/None	51	44	5	333

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

The 1992 and 1993 **Public Mind Surveys** indicated a conspicuous lack of public consensus about most proposals related to education. And again, this year, public opinion on proposals relating to education are best characterized as generally split. In fact, from a political perspective, the absence of consensus is clearly a major obstacle to educational reform in Pennsylvania. Survey results of the past three years imply the need for a strong leader in educational reform who is able to foster consensus.

Condoms in High Schools. In the view of some educators, the education process is being hampered by too many extracurricular activities, too much TV, too much drinking and drug use, too much dating and sexual activity, and too many pregnancies. Thus, on the latter matter, it has been proposed to distribute condoms in high school to reduce the spread of diseases and teen pregnancies. Still, when asked whether condom distribution in high schools should or should not be legal, opinion was split: 54% favored the proposal, 36% opposed, while 9% were undecided. And, among those supporting the proposal, many (39%) felt that the condoms should be given only with parental consent. Proponents of providing condoms are disproportionately (74%) young adults, with only (31%) of the elderly favoring the idea. Proponents were not asked whether the proposal should be implemented at the state or the local level; however, one proponent commented:"Some schools already provide condoms, while others don't. I think they all should have to."

Public School Choice Outside District of Residence. Only a slim majority (52%) of Pennsylvanians favor the idea of allowing parents to choose to send their child to a public school outside the district in which they reside. In fact, when supporters of the proposal were asked if they would still support "choice" if its implementation would require an increase of taxes or more busing, under each condition, only 60% favored these proposals. In short, only 30% of the general public support school choice if it requires more taxes or additional busing.

Increase Number of School Days/ School Year. Recently (May 1994), the National Education Commission on Time and Learning concluded: "The six-hour, 180-day school year should be relegated to museums, an exhibit from our education past." Nonetheless, only 47% of Pennsylvanians support the idea of extending the school year. Support is stronger among urbanites (50%) than among persons living in rural areas (39%).

Vouchers. Overall, only 30% of Pennsylvanians favor the idea of "using state tax dollars to help parents pay the cost of sending their child to a private or parochial school." Among Catholics, 42% favor, compared to only 21% of Protestants.

Public School Funding. State Senator Chaka Fattah has proposed that public schools be funded through a graduated state income tax rather than local property taxes. A majority (54%) of Pennsylvanians agree with the proposal – more so the elderly and Democrats. However, opponents point out that such an idea would require amending the state constitution to allow a graduated income tax. They are also concerned that if the state pays for public education then local districts will lose too much control of it.

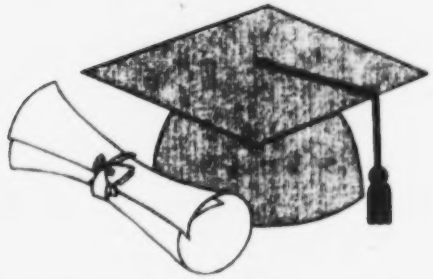
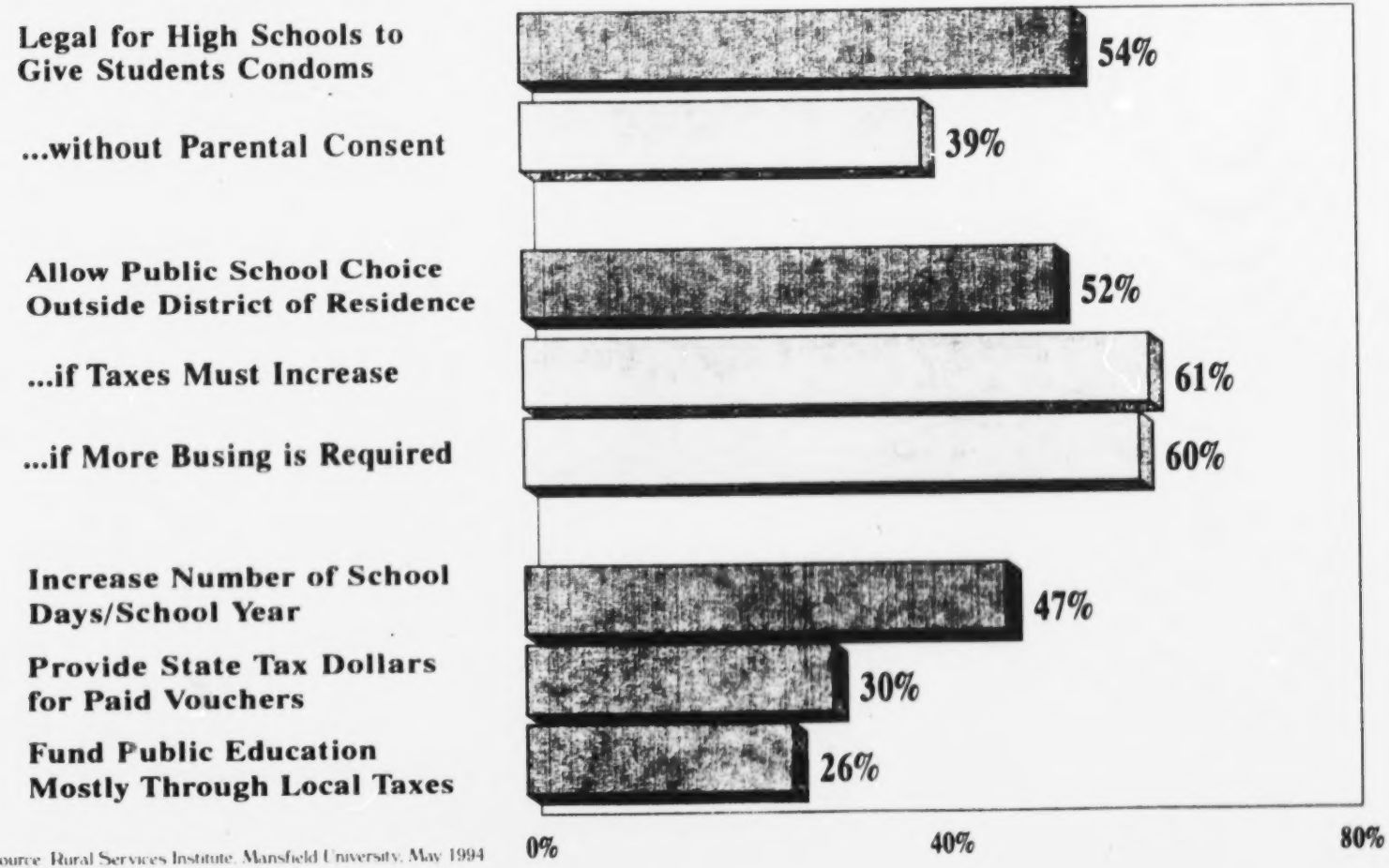


Fig. 11:

Educational Reform Proposals

Percentage of Pennsyvanias who "favor" proposal to ...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

EDUCATION:
Provide Condoms for High School Students

Question: Do you think it should be *legal* or *illegal* for high schools to give condoms to students?

RESPONSES	LEGAL	ILLEGAL	DK	N
Statewide	55%	36%	9%	1814
Rural/Urban				
Rural	53	38	9	396
Urban	55	36	9	1418
Region				
Northwest	50	39	11	179
Southwest	54	38	8	435
Central	52	38	10	397
Northeast	49	41	10	147
Southeast	58	33	9	656
Age				
18 - 34	74	18	8	495
35 - 49	60	33	8	602
50 - 64	42	48	10	339
65 or older	31	55	14	351
Sex				
Male	54	38	8	771
Female	54	36	10	980
Marital Status				
Married	53	38	9	1069
Divorced	61	30	9	166
Separated	65	28	6	46
Widowed	33	52	15	203
Never Married	69	24	7	319
Children				
Yes - Over	42	48	10	679
Yes - Under	62	29	9	656
None	63	29	8	456
Educational Level				
< High School	48	37	15	174
High School	52	39	9	956
College Graduate	60	32	9	675
Political Affiliation				
Republican	49	42	9	606
Democrat	56	34	10	678
Independent/Other	57	33	10	133
None	63	30	7	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	52	38	10	806
Catholic	53	38	9	645
Other/None	63	28	8	333

EDUCATION:
Public School Choice Outside of Resident District

Question: Currently, parents are required to send their children to a public school within their own school district. Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow parents to choose a public school *outside* the district in which they live?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	52%	43%	6%	1819
Rural/Urban				
Rural	56	38	6	397
Urban	50	44	6	1422
Region				
Northwest	52	40	8	178
Southwest	50	45	5	436
Central	50	44	7	397
Northeast	60	34	6	146
Southeast	52	43	5	662
Age				
18 - 34	63	34	3	496
35 - 49	53	41	6	603
50 - 64	47	46	7	341
65 or older	39	53	8	351
Sex				
Male	52	44	4	773
Female	51	44	7	983
Marital Status				
Married	51	44	6	1068
Divorced	54	39	7	167
Separated	52	41	6	46
Widowed	38	53	9	204
Never Married	62	35	3	321
Children				
Yes - Over	44	49	7	679
Yes - Under	57	38	5	656
None	55	40	5	459
Educational Level				
< High School	49	44	6	174
High School	52	43	6	957
College Graduate	52	43	6	677
Political Affiliation				
Republican	48	46	6	606
Democrat	51	43	6	678
Independent/Other	59	37	4	133
None	55	40	5	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	48	46	7	807
Catholic	54	41	5	647
Other/None	56	41	3	333

EDUCATION:
Increase Number of School Days

Question: Do you favor or oppose increasing the number of days children are required to attend school each year?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	47%	43%	10%	1815
Rural/Urban				
Rural	39	52	9	395
Urban	50	40	10	1420
Region				
Northwest	45	51	4	178
Southwest	43	47	10	433
Central	41	49	10	397
Northeast	49	43	8	147
Southeast	54	34	11	660
Age				
18 - 34	43	46	10	494
35 - 49	48	42	9	603
50 - 64	50	41	9	341
65 or older	49	40	11	350
Sex				
Male	48	42	10	770
Female	47	43	10	982
Marital Status				
Married	47	43	10	1068
Divorced	55	36	8	167
Separated	56	41	2	46
Widowed	44	45	11	203
Never Married	45	46	9	320
Children				
Yes - Over	49	41	10	679
Yes - Under	46	45	10	656
None	48	42	10	457
Educational Level				
< High School	43	49	8	174
High School	46	45	10	957
College Graduate	51	38	11	675
Political Affiliation				
Republican	49	42	9	608
Democrat	50	41	9	678
Independent/Other	52	35	13	133
None	38	51	11	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	44	45	11	807
Catholic	49	42	10	645
Other/None	52	41	8	333

EDUCATION:
Provide "State Tax Dollar Paid" Vouchers to Parents

Question: Do you favor or oppose using state tax dollars to help parents pay the cost of sending their child to a private or parochial school?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	30%	66%	4%	1816
Rural/Urban				
Rural	26	69	5	395
Urban	31	65	4	1421
Region				
Northwest	28	69	3	179
Southwest	26	70	4	432
Central	26	70	4	397
Northeast	36	59	5	147
Southeast	35	60	4	661
Age				
18 - 34	31	66	3	495
35 - 49	33	65	3	603
50 - 64	30	63	7	339
65 or older	26	69	4	352
Sex				
Male	29	68	3	772
Female	31	64	5	981
Marital Status				
Married	32	64	4	1069
Divorced	28	66	7	166
Separated	30	67	2	46
Widowed	21	76	3	204
Never Married	30	66	4	320
Children				
Yes - Over	29	67	5	679
Yes - Under	33	64	4	656
None	29	67	4	458
Educational Level				
< High School	23	70	7	175
High School	29	67	4	958
College Graduate	33	64	4	674
Political Affiliation				
Republican	31	65	4	607
Democrat	30	66	4	679
Independent/Other	33	6	7	133
None	30	66	5	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	21	74	4	807
Catholic	42	54	4	646
Other/None	28	68	4	333

EDUCATION:

Funding Public Education: Local vs. State Taxes

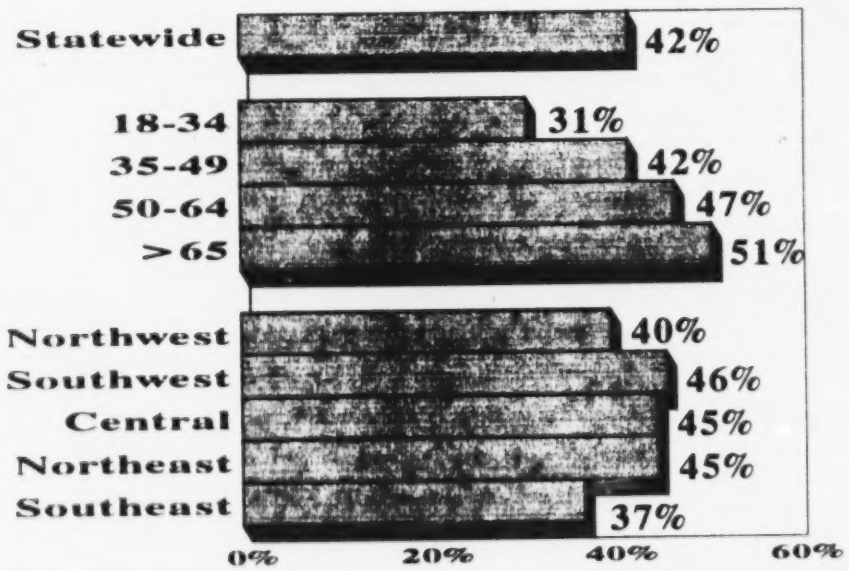
Question: Do you feel that public education should be funded mostly through local taxes or mostly through state taxes?

RESPONSES	LOCAL	STATE	DK	N
Statewide	26%	55%	19%	1798
Rural/Urban				
Rural	22	58	21	391
Urban	27	55	19	1407
Region				
Northwest	25	58	17	177
Southwest	22	61	17	433
Central	28	48	23	393
Northeast	21	60	19	146
Southeast	27	54	18	649
Age				
18 - 34	26	60	13	495
35 - 49	29	53	18	598
50 - 64	26	52	22	337
65 or older	19	56	26	343
Sex				
Male	29	54	17	768
Female	23	56	21	968
Marital Status				
Married	27	52	20	1059
Divorced	24	57	19	165
Separated	24	67	9	45
Widowed	21	56	23	200
Never Married	26	61	14	319
Children				
Yes - Over	23	52	24	668
Yes - Under	29	54	17	653
None	25	60	15	455
Educational Level				
< High School	20	55	26	172
High School	25	55	20	949
College Graduate	29	55	16	669
Political Affiliation				
Republican	32	48	20	604
Democrat	21	58	19	675
Independent/Other	30	50	19	131
None	22	60	18	256
Religious Preference				
Protestant	26	53	20	799
Catholic	24	59	17	642
Other/None	28	52	20	329

Fig. 12:

Tax Reform: Lowering Property Taxes*

Question: "Do you support lower property taxes if other taxes must be increased to make up for the loss of revenue?"



Respondents who responded "YES" were subdivided into two groups. Group A (N=396) was asked: "To make up the loss of revenue which of the following would be most acceptable to you: raise the income tax or raise the sales tax?"

Group B (N=334) was asked: "To make up the loss of revenue which of the following would be most acceptable to you: raise taxes on the money you earn and save or raise on the things you buy?"

FINDING: The choice of words makes a difference: fourteen percent (14%) would raise taxes on the money one earns and saves, but 33% would raise the income tax. At the same time, 67% would raise the sales tax, while 86% would raise taxes on the things one buys.

* Denotes the question was purchased by the Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus.
Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

TAX REFORM:
Allow Tax Amnesty

Question: Some people have avoided paying their state income tax. Do you think they should be given a chance to pay their back taxes plus interest *without* being prosecuted?

RESPONSES	YES	NO	DK	N
Statewide	81%	15%	4%	1807
Rural/Urban				
Rural	77	18	5	391
Urban	82	14	3	1416
Region				
Northwest	74	20	6	176
Southwest	84	14	2	433
Central	76	19	5	393
Northeast	80	18	3	146
Southeast	85	12	4	659
Age				
18 - 34	83	14	3	493
35 - 49	83	14	3	604
50 - 64	81	14	5	336
65 or older	77	19	4	348
Sex				
Male	81	15	4	770
Female	81	15	4	977
Marital Status				
Married	80	16	4	1066
Divorced	87	11	2	167
Separated	78	22	0	46
Widowed	81	15	4	201
Never Married	83	14	3	317
Children				
Yes - Over	80	16	4	674
Yes - Under	83	14	3	654
None	[illegible]	15	3	457
Educational Level				
< High School	77	17	7	175
High School	80	17	3	952
College Graduate	85	12	3	672
Political Affiliation				
Republican	80	17	3	606
Democrat	83	13	4	679
Independent/Other	79	14	7	133
None	82	15	4	259
Religious Preference				
Protestant	79	18	4	804
Catholic	84	14	3	642
Other/None	84	12	4	332

Fig. 13:

Tax Reform: Tax Amnesty

Question: "Some people have avoided paying their state income tax. Do you think they should be given a chance to pay their back taxes plus interest without being prosecuted?"

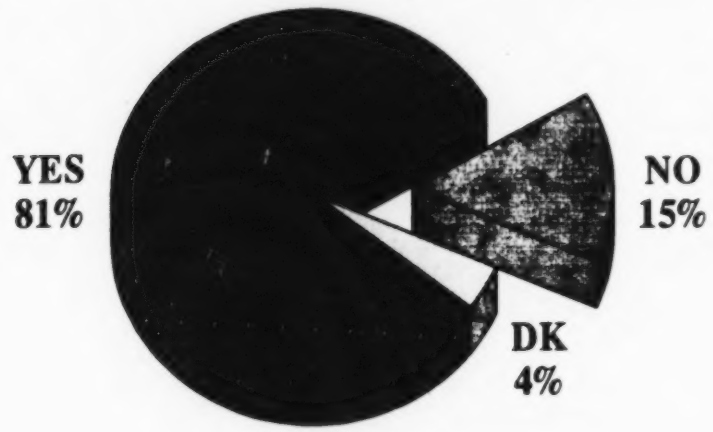


Fig. 14:

Tax Reform: Business Taxes vs. More Jobs

Question: "Do you think that lowering business taxes will or will not lead to more jobs in Pennsylvania?"

Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

TAX REFORM:
Business Taxes vs. More Jobs

Question: Do you think that lowering business taxes will or will not lead to more jobs in Pennsylvania?*

RESPONSES	WILL	WILL NOT	DK	N
Statewide	56%	29%	15%	1816
Rural/Urban				
Rural	54	29	16	395
Urban	57	29	14	1421
Region				
Northwest	56	28	15	179
Southwest	52	33	15	436
Central	58	29	13	394
Northeast	63	21	16	147
Southeast	57	27	15	660
Age				
18 - 34	55	30	14	495
35 - 49	59	29	11	604
50 - 64	60	28	12	341
65 or older	52	25	23	350
Sex				
Male	62	28	10	773
Female	52	29	18	982
Marital Status				
Married	59	27	14	1071
Divorced	54	35	11	168
Separated	56	30	13	46
Widowed	54	23	23	202
Never Married	52	32	15	320
Children				
Yes - Over	56	27	17	680
Yes - Under	59	28	13	656
None	55	31	15	459
Educational Level				
< High School	56	25	19	175
High School	55	29	16	959
College Graduate	58	29	12	675
Political Affiliate				
Republican	63	24	13	607
Democrat	55	30	16	680
Independent/Other	53	34	14	133
None	53	32	15	262
Religious Preference				
Protestant	58	28	14	808
Catholic	58	27	14	646
Other/None	52	31	17	334

* Denotes the question was purchased by the Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus.

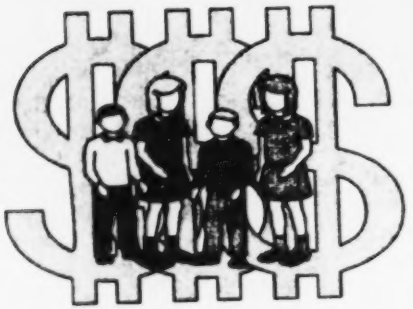
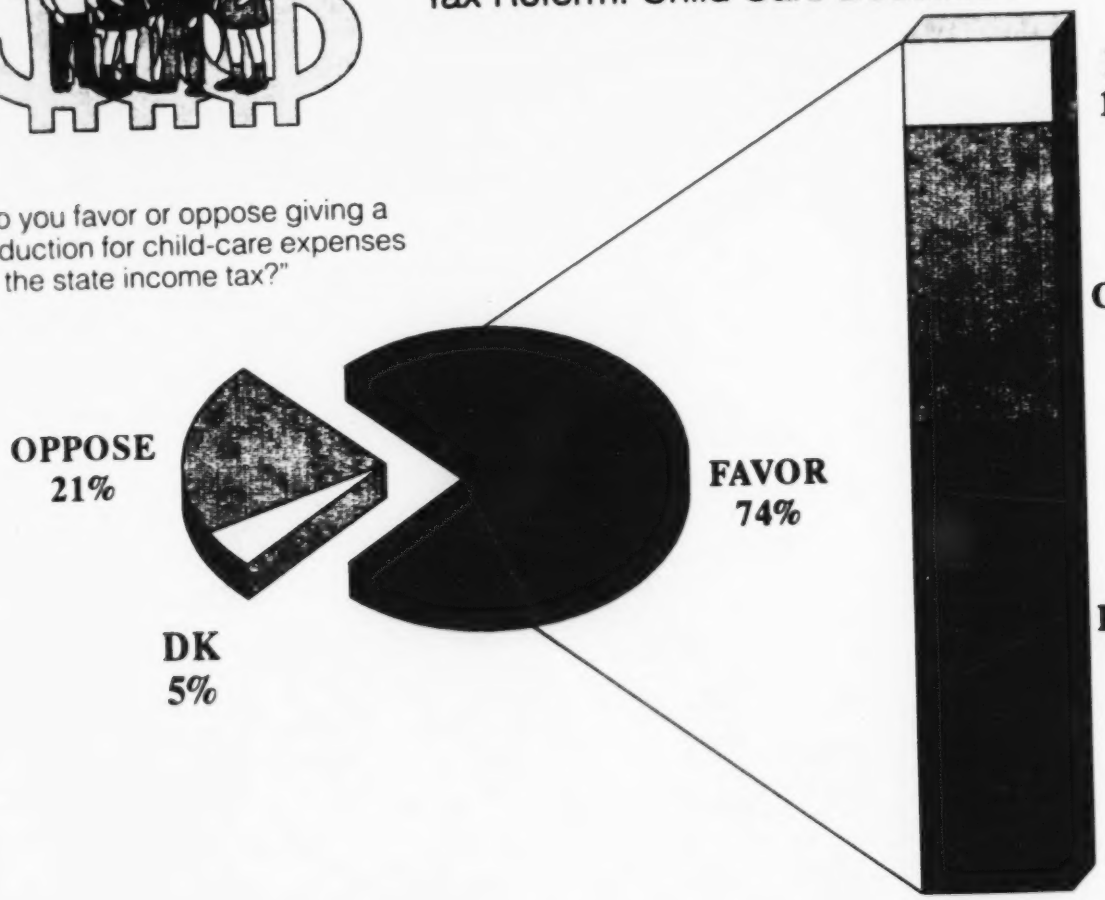


Fig. 15:

Tax Reform: Child Care Deduction

"Do you favor or oppose giving a deduction for child-care expenses on the state income tax?"



The 74% of respondents who favored a child-care deduction on the state income tax were asked: "Would you still favor a deduction if it requires raising other taxes"

JUDICIARY REFORM:
Appointment vs. Election of Judges

Question: Do you favor or oppose changing the state constitution to allow judges to be appointed rather than elected?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	27%	61%	12%	1797
Rural/Urban				
Rural	24	65	10	387
Urban	28	60	12	1410
Region				
Northwest	29	64	7	178
Southwest	26	61	12	426
Central	27	63	10	389
Northeast	21	60	18	146
Southeast	28	59	12	658
Age				
18 - 34	28	61	10	489
35 - 49	28	63	9	604
50 - 64	29	59	12	338
65 or older	24	60	16	347
Sex				
Male	29	63	8	772
Female	25	60	14	976
Marital Status				
Married	27	62	12	1064
Divorced	24	66	10	162
Separated	27	61	11	44
Widowed	23	61	17	203
Never Married	32	57	10	318
Children				
Yes - Over	29	62	14	672
Yes - Under	28	63	9	658
None	28	59	12	450
Educational Level				
< High School	24	55	21	167
High School	26	63	11	957
College Graduate	30	59	11	670
Political Affiliate				
Republican	27	61	12	599
Democrat	27	63	10	672
Independent/Other	22	63	15	130
None	31	57	12	261
Religious Preference				
Protestant	26	63	11	805
Catholic	28	61	10	639
Other/None	29	55	16	332

Fig. 16:

Appointment vs. Election of Judges

Question: "Do you favor or oppose changing the state constitution to allow judges to be appointed rather than elected?"

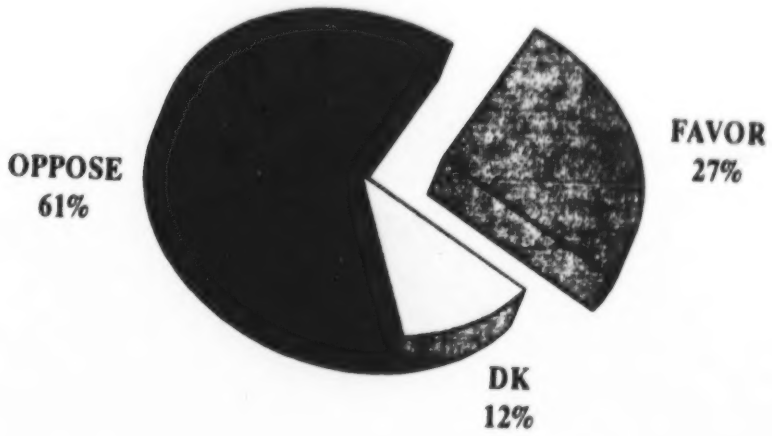
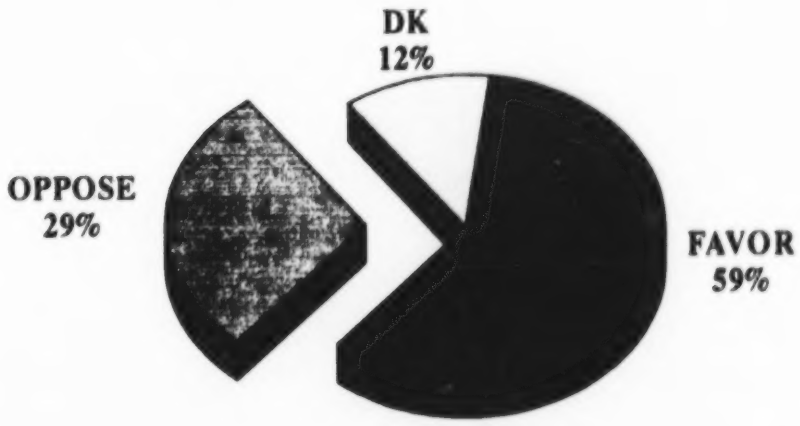


Fig. 17:

Privatization of State Liquor Stores

Question: "Do you favor or oppose selling the state liquor stores and having them operated as private businesses?"



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University, May 1994

PRIVATIZATION:
Privatization of State Liquor Stores

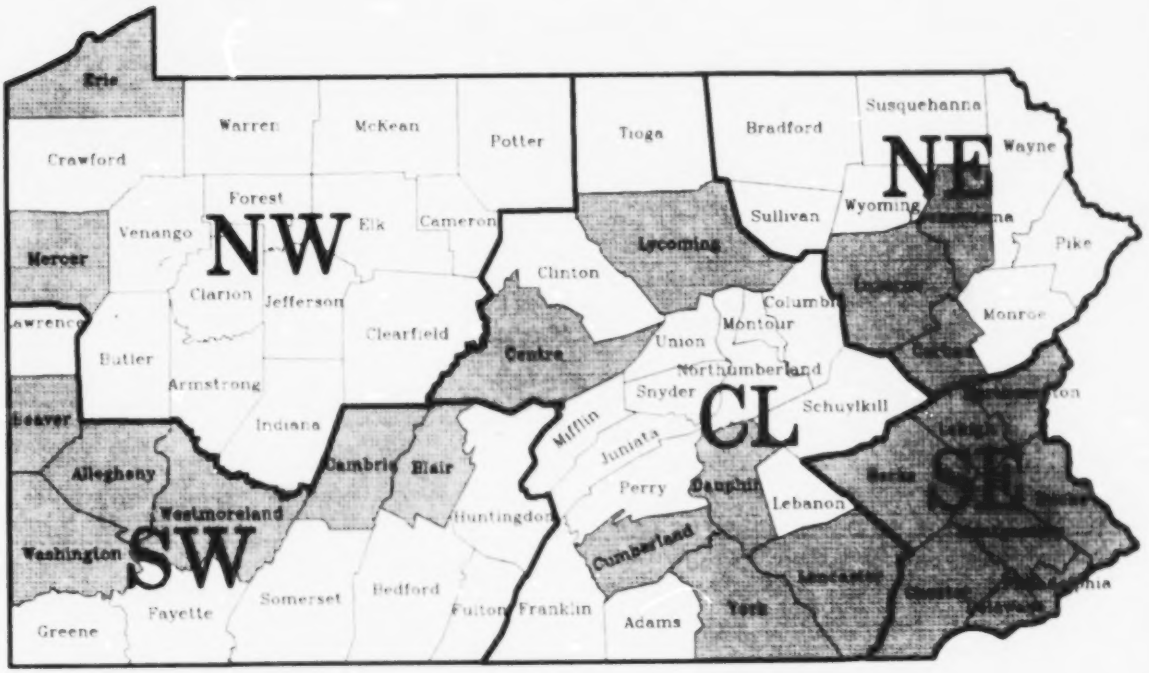
Question: Do you favor or oppose selling the state liquor stores and having them operate as private businesses?

RESPONSES	FAVOR	OPPOSE	DK	N
Statewide	59%	29%	12%	1799
Rural/Urban				
Rural	51	35	13	390
Urban	61	27	12	1409
Region				
Northwest	56	33	11	177
Southwest	59	30	11	432
Central	56	34	10	389
Northeast	56	28	16	146
Southeast	62	24	14	655
Age				
18 - 34	58	32	10	492
35 - 49	66	22	12	600
50 - 64	59	30	11	337
65 or older	48	37	16	346
Sex				
Male	67	26	7	767
Female	53	31	16	972
Marital Status				
Married	60	27	12	1062
Divorced	58	28	13	165
Separated	70	20	11	46
Widowed	49	34	17	201
Never Married	60	32	8	318
Children				
Yes - Over	54	33	14	675
Yes - Under	63	24	13	650
None	61	30	8	457
Educational Level				
< High School	43	41	16	171
High School	56	32	13	950
College Graduate	63	22	10	673
Political Affiliate				
Republican	63	25	12	604
Democrat	56	32	12	680
Independent/Other	62	26	13	133
None	53	32	15	257
Religious Preference				
Protestant	56	31	13	797
Catholic	61	27	12	642
Other/None	63	28	10	334

Appendix A:

Regional and Urban-Rural Classification

With only a few exceptions, people living in a borough or township with a total population smaller than 2,500 people and not contiguous to a built-up urbanized area are rural residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. If at least half (50%) of the residents in the county fit this description, then the county is considered rural. The remaining counties are therefore considered urban. Based upon this definition of rural areas, the counties shown in white are considered mostly "rural counties", and the counties shown in grey are considered mostly "urban counties."



URBAN COUNTIES

Allegheny	Lackawanna
Beaver	Lancaster
Berks	Lehigh
Blair	Luzerne
Bucks	Lycoming
Cambria	Mercer
Carbon	Montgomery
Centre	Northampton
Chester	Philadelphia
Cumberland	Washington
Dauphin	Westmoreland
Delaware	York
Erie	

RURAL COUNTIES

Adams	Franklin	Perry
Armstrong	Fulton	Pike
Bedford	Greene	Potter
Bradford	Huntingdon	Schuylkill
Butler	Indiana	Snyder
Cameron	Jefferson	Somerset
Clarion	Juniata	Sullivan
Clearfield	Lawrence	Susquehanna
Clinton	Lebanon	Tioga
Columbia	McKean	Union
Crawford	Mifflin	Venango
Elk	Monroe	Warren
Fayette	Montour	Wayne
Forest	Northumberland	Wyoming

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Appendix B:

The Sample

The sample was provided by Survey Sampling, Inc. It was a sample consisting of 4537 telephone numbers randomly selected from all listed telephone numbers in Pennsylvania. Of this number, 41% were completions, 32% were refusals, and the remainder were unavailable (no answer, answering machines, etc.).

The interviews took place between February 7 and March 9, 1994. Each interview took approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The sample closely approximates actual demographic characteristics of Pennsylvania.

	Actual	Sample
Population[1]	11,861,643	1865
Sex[1]		
Male	47%	44%
Female	53	56
Age[1]		
18 - 34	26%	27%
35 - 49	20	33
50 - 64	14	19
65 +	15	20
Region[1]		
Northwest	10%	10%
Southwest	24	24
Central	20	22
Southeast	39	37
Northeast	8	8
Urban-Rural[1]		
Mostly urban counties	79%	78%
Mostly rural counties	21	22
Political Affiliation[2]		
Registered	50%	84%
Republican	43	43
Democratic	51	48
Independent/Other	6	9

In theory, in 19 of 20 cases the results based upon the sample will differ by no more than 2.4% percentage points in either direction from what would be obtained if all Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were contacted. The potential sampling error for smaller subgroups is larger. For example, for either Democrats or Republicans it is plus or minus 3.5% percentage points.

[1]U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (1990)

[2]PA Dept. of State, for 1993 Municipal Elections.

Division of Community Services and Continuing Education

CONTINUING EDUCATION
(717) 662-4244 or 4849

Undergraduate/Graduate Courses
- Mansfield University/Guthrie Education Center-Sayre, PA
- College Center of the Finger Lakes, Corning, NY
- Towanda-Williamsport-Loyalsock-Lock Haven

Distance Courses
- Tele-Conferences
- Travel Abroad

Undergraduate Special Students
- Academic Advising and Counseling
- Course Selection, Registration, Evaluation of Transfer Credit
- Diagnostic Placement Testing

SUMMER SCHOOL & NON-CREDIT OFFERINGS
(717) 662-4866 or 4850

- Undergraduate & Graduate Coursework
- Municipal Police Officers' Training Program and In-Service Training
- Security Guard Act 235 Training
- Summer Youth Camps: Gifted, Music, Computer, Art, Mathematics
- Workshops, Seminars, Travel Tours

GRANTS DEVELOPMENT
(717) 662-4809

- Grant Writing Workshops
- Resource Library - Materials & Information
- Assistance In Locating Funding Sources

Cooperative Projects With Community Agencies

RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE
(717) 662-4808

Workforce Institute & Resource Center
Collect, Research & Distribute Information on the Regional Workforce

Applied Research Center
Surveys, public opinion polls, studies, evaluations, data analysis

Data Center
Rural Data Base - Demographic, Economic, Social Data

Parents As Education Partners Program
Program to increase number of students going on to post-secondary education.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION
(717) 662-4746

Pride, JTPA, & REWARD
Basic Literacy and Basic Skills Training
Preparation for High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)
Family Literacy Classes
Workplace Education Programs
Computer Assisted Instruction
Volunteer Opportunities
Tutor Training Workshops/State Sponsored Seminars

HOPE
Tioga County Prison Program

Copies of this survey are available from:
Rural Services Institute
Mansfield University
209 Doane Center
Mansfield, PA 16933
(717) 662-4808

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